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EXAMINER

HANNE, SARA M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 07/12/2004

5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/976,186

Applicant(s)

ANDREW, FELIX G.T.I.

Examiner

Sara M Hanne

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10/12/01 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to the amendment received on 4/12/2004. Claims 1-24 are pending in the application.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 6 recites the limitation "the field" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

5. Claims 1-7 and 9-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Sigl, US Patent 6714220.

As in Claim 1, Sigl teaches a system to provide user input using a plurality of software input methods (subset panels) independent of the application

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program (numeric keypads are common to many applications), each with a panel configured to receive the user input based on user interaction (Figure 2, Ref. 3.2) therewith and a software input method manager configured to select one of the input methods based on the state of the application program (field selected) to enable the user to interact with that input method to the application program (Figure 3, Ref. 3.5 and 3.6).

As in Claim 2, Sigl teaches the application program to communicate the state to the SIP method manager (Column 3, lines 1-9).

As in Claim 3, Sigl teaches a component external to the application program to determine the state of the application program and communicates the state to the SIP method manager (Column 6, line 51 et seq.).

As in Claim 4, Sigl teaches the application program state corresponding to the field having input focus (Column 2, lines 42-44).

As in Claims 5-6, Sigl teaches the application program communicating data corresponding to the field to the SIP method manager where the SIP method manager selects the input method based on the data (Figure 3, Ref. 3.3).

As in Claim 7, Sigl teaches the application program communicating key related data to the SIP method manager which configures some keys of the input panel are based on the key related data (Figure 3, Ref. 3.4 and 3.5).

As in Claim 9, Sigl teaches the key-related data to include a string corresponding to a meaning of a variable key (the specified key is a string).

As in Claim 10, Sigl teaches a database of previous use input information, such that the software input method configures some keys on the input panel based on the previous user input information (previous use for the selected field).

As in Claim 11, Sigl teaches a computer implemented method for receiving application program state data at a software input method manager (Figure 3, Ref. 3.2), selecting an input method from the software input methods (Figure 3, Ref. 3.3), each software input method independent of the application program (numeric keypads are common to many applications), and having an input panel configured to receive user input based on user interaction (Figure 3, Ref. 3.5 and 3.6), and returning key data to the application program corresponding to user interaction with the input panel (Figure 3, Ref. 3.8), the input panel having a displayed key that when actuated returns a string of at least

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two characters to the application program (the ok button returns the string in Ref. 2.3 of Figure 2).

As in Claim 12, Sigl teaches receiving key configuration data in relation to the selected input method and configuring a keys on the input panel are based on the key configuration data (See Claim 7 rejection *supra*).

As in Claim 13, Sigl teaches a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions (Column 3, lines 1-9).

As in Claim 14, Sigl teaches a computer implemented method for receiving application program state data at a software input method manager, selecting an input panel based on the application program state data, the input panel independent of the application program, displaying keys on the input panel to enable user interaction with the input panel, and returning key data to the application program corresponding to user interaction with the input panel (See Claim 11 rejection *supra*)

As in Claim 15, Sigl teaches receiving data corresponding to a communication from the application program (See Claim 2 rejection *supra*).

As in Claim 16, Sigl teaches receiving data corresponding to a communication component external to the application program (See Claim 3 rejection *supra*).

As in Claim 17, Sigl teaches the selecting an input panel to comprise loading an input method (Figure 3, Ref. 3.4 and 3.5).

As in Claim 18, Sigl teaches the selecting an input panel to comprise notifying a loaded input method (popup window 2.1).

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As in Claim 19, Sigl teaches receiving key configuration information corresponding to the state, and configuring keys on the input panel are based on the key configuration data (See Claim 7 rejection *supra*).

As in Claim 20, Sigl teaches receiving key configuration information comprising receiving data corresponding to a communication from the application program (See Claim 2 rejection *supra*).

As in Claim 21, Sigl teaches configuration information comprising receiving data corresponding to a communication from a component external to the application program (See Claim 3 rejection *supra*).

As in Claim 22, Sigl teaches receiving data corresponding to a communication from a database (the stored keys are a database).

As in Claim 23, Sigl teaches returning a string of at least two characters in response to a single displayed key being actuated (the ok button returns the string in Ref. 2.3 of Figure 2).

As in Claim 24, Sigl teaches a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions (See Claim 13 rejection *supra*).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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7. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sigl, US Patent 6714220, and further in view of Cobbley et al. US Patent Application Publication 2002/0085038. Sigl teaches the method of Claims 1-7 as seen *supra*. While Sigl teaches the sending of key related data, they fail to show the use of XML format used to communicate the key-related data to the software input method as recited in the claims. Cobbley et al. teaches a keyboard similar to that of Sigl. In addition, Cobbley et al. further teaches using of XML format to communicate key related data ("text entry blocks may use particular coding such as hypertext markup language (HTML) coding or other languages including extensible mark up language (XML)", Paragraph 15). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Sigl and Cobbley et al. before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the key-related data communication taught by Sigl to include the usage of the XML format of Cobbley et al., in order to obtain the transmitting of key-related data using XML format. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because a Internet capable input system would have been obtained, as taught by Cobbley et al.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments, see Pages 9-12, filed 4/12/2004, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-24 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Sigl, US Patent 6714220 as seen *supra*.



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**Conclusion**

8. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach choosing an input device according to application program information and configuring keys based on prediction methods and such.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sara M Hanne whose telephone number is (703) 305-0703. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (703) 308-3116. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-5484.

smh

BA HUYNH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER